OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ACADEMY OF COMIC-BOOK FANS & COLLECTORS

THE COMIC READER # 23

March, 1964

SPECIAL EDITION PUBLISHED FOR THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

SUPPORTING MEMBERSHIPS

The final vote on the proposal to establish an Academy Treasury and Supporting Memberships was 44-to-7 in favor, with about 75% of the Board voting. Although the vote was sufficient to establish the original amendment to the Academy Charter, I felt that since it was not possible for everyone to hear all arguments, pro and con, every attempt should be made to consider the objections raised by those opposed to the measure. The only serious objection raised by more than one person concerned the matter of the annual fee. It was felt that the provision allowing students to pay a smaller fee ($2.00 instead of $4.00) discriminated against wage-earners with dependents, and older fans who will be carrying a heavy responsibility in the Academy. Further, it was argued that a student could well afford to pay the full fee if his interest in the Academy was sufficient to warrant such participation. If not, then he could still participate as a General Member, which requires no fee. I checked back with other Board members in an effort to sense the feeling of the Board without calling another formal vote, and I believe that there is an overwhelming consensus favoring the proposition of a single fee for ALL Supporting Members; therefore, the proposal was revised accordingly. The amendment to the Charter, as it now reads, is given on page 2.

THE COMIC READER

Because of the death of his mother, Bill White will not be able to carry out his plans to combine TCR and CC. G. B. Love has agreed to publish Comic Reader Specials to keep fandom informed of pro-news, and has indicated that he would like to assume TCR as a regular department in his new, combined ROCKET'S BLAST-COMICOLLECTOR. I informed Gordon that according to the Academy Charter, the final disposition of TCR is in the hands of the Executive Board. So, what is your pleasure? Shall we accept G. B.'s offer, or does someone have a better proposal? At this point, I think we should be open to all offers. Remember that TCR is not only, by tradition, the central source of pro-news for all fandom, it is the official bulletin for Academy news, which is becoming more important all the time. (Witness this special edition of TCR.) The question is: should these two news functions continue to be linked in one zine, or should they now be separated? I believe this is the Academy's first big test: Will TCR survive as a separate publication as it was originally handled, or will it be relagated to a second-order existence in another fanzine as a kind of foster child. Personally, I think it would be in the best interest of fandom for some member of the Board with publishing experience to adopt TCR and publish it as a separate, monthly newsletter, subsidized by the Academy. What do you think?

FANEDS: Help build the ACADEMY: report ACADEMY news in your fanzine. Reprint any items from this issue, especially the Charter Amendment.

AMENDMENT TO ACADEMY CHARTER

The Executive Board does hereby create an Academy Treasury and Supporting Memberships in the Academy, with annual dues of $2.00, payable between January 1 and March 15* of each year.

1. The Executive Secretary shall collect the funds of the Academy, pay its legitimate expenses, and present a full financial report to the Executive Board at or about the close of each Calendar Year, and at such other times as the Board requests.

2. A Supporting Member shall be entitled to:

(1) The right to vote in the annual election of the Executive Board.

(2) Eligibility for election to the Executive Board for a period of one year.

(3) A complete listing inthe Academy's Official Directory, or a Supplement to it.

(4) A copy of the Official Directory, and any Supplements that appear during the year of membership.

(5) Reduced rates on special Academy publications, and other materials that may be made available through the Academy.

(6) Official credentials that will entitle the holder to special privileges in connection with Academy-sponsored projects.

The Board reserves the right to refuse the application and refund the fee of any fan that has fallen into "bad standing" as a result of dishonest or fraudulent dealings with other fans.

*This date was set back to June 1 this year because the proposal itself was not announced until March.

OFFICIAL ACADEMY DIRECTORY

As many of you know, Larry Lattanzi has spent some months preparing his WHO'S WHO IN COMIC FANDOM. I have made arrangements with Larry to publish the WHO'S WHO as the Academy's Official Directory, and I'm happy to report that the project is almost completed. Larry has supplied me with the masters he prepared from the data sheets submitted by fans, and I have nearly all of them run off. I have added a complete listing of all comics fanzines on file as of Feb. 22, and I'm presently debating the advisability of including the addresses of all General Members in my file (about 600). I may wait to include this address material in a Supplement to be published this summer. The Supplement will include biographical data on any Supporting Member who missed Larry's deadline. If you were one of these, you'll find a questionnaire enclosed for you to fill out and return forthwith.

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HALL OF FAME

Ed Lahmann has agreed to serve as chairman of the Hall of Fame Committee to consider creating awards and special publications to honor great strips of the past and men who have made important contributions to the field of comics. Ed has asked the following fans to serve on the committee: Bauman, Davidson, Foss, Durell, Bails, Heineman, & Thailing. Some pros may be asked to serve too. The Committee is already at work considering proposals. Committee members are exchanging ideas via open letters, which just may prove to be a good technique for carrying on discussions.

JUMBO PHOTOGRAPHS OF GOLDEN AGE COSTUMED HEROES

Beautiful, black and white photographs of famous covers from the Golden Eaa of Comics. Only 15¢ each. Each JUMBO print pictures a rare "FIRST" in the history of comics. You'll want to collect every one. Orders are now being accepted for any of the exciting prints listed below. When you order, be sure to list both the title and the issue number of the prints you want. You may order as many or as few prints as you like, but for orders under $1.00, add 15¢ extra to cover postage and handling. Full payment must accompany all orders. Foreign orders are payable by International Money Order. All orders for prints in this set must be in my hands by March 31, 1964. Allow up to April 30 for delivery, because no print orders can be sent to the printers until ALL orders are in. If you want your order acknowledged, then enclose a self-addressed postcard with your order. Send all orders to:

JERRY G. BAILS 22529 Karam Ct., Warren, Mich. 48091

All-Star #36 (Superman, Batman, JSA) First Time Offered!
Amazing Mystery #1 (Fantom of the Fair)
Arrow #1 (The Arrow)
Atoman #1
Avenger #1
Blackhawk #9 (First Issue)
Black Terror #1
Blazing #1 (Green Turtle)
Blue Beetle #1
Blue Bolt #1 (Joe Simon hero)
Boy Comics #3 (Crimebuster)
Bulletman #1 (w/Bulletgirl)
Captain Flash #1
Captain Wizard #1
Crack Comics #1 (The Clock, Black Condor)
Dime Comics #1 (Silver Streak)
Doc Savage #1
Doll Man #1
Dynamic Comics #1 (Maj. Victory)
Eagle #1
Face #1
Fighting Yank #1
Flame #1
Funnyman #1
Ghost Rider #1
Golden Lad #1
Green Lama #1
Green Mask #1
Hit Comics #1 (The Red Bee)
Hit Comics #26 (Kid Eternity)
Jungle Comics #1 (Kaanga)
Jungle Girl #1 (Nyoka)
Major Victory #1
Man of War #1
Marvel Boy #1
Miss Fury #1
Our Flag #1 (Unknown Soldier)
Regular Fellers Heroic #1 (Hydroman by Bill "Daredevil" Everett)
Saint #1
Science Comics #1 (Electro)
Skyman #1 (Gardner Fox hero)
Sparkler Comics #1 (Spark Man)
Spirit #1
Startling Comics #1 (Capt. Future)
Sure-Fire #1 ("Flash" Lightning)
Thrilling Comics #1 (Dr. Strange)
Uncle Sam #1
U.S. Jones #1
V-Comics #1 (V-Man)
Victory #1 (Conqueror by Bill Everett)
Wow #6 (Commando Yank & Phantom Eagle)
Yankee Comics #1 (Yankee Doodle Jones)

SPECIAL CONTEST: Guess my son's birthdate (month-day), and win original Dr. Solar art. Each $1.00 of your order entitles you to one guess. Closest guess wins.

IMPORTANT: If you want to be informed of the next print offer, but are not ordering now, send a self addressed, stamped envelope.

PRIZED ITEMS IN MY COLLECTION OF
EARLY D. C. COMICS
ARE GOING ON THE AUCTION BLOCK.

Minimum bids: $5.00

Get in on the bidding!

Cash or trade offers accepted!

First good offer takes the item!

First items up for bid --

The COMPLETE run of LEADING COMICS starring
THE SEVEN SOLDIERS OF VICTORY

14 issues -- all in very good or <u>mint</u> condition.
(Bid on each issue separately.)

Special note: #1 (Win/41-42) features the origin of the group.
#6 features the heroes fighting each other.
#8 feature 5 chapters drawn by Joe Kubert.
#10 (Spr/44) has the heroes teamed up with different partners.

IMPORTANT: I will accept very good or mint copies of any of the following in trade for the above LEADING COMICS:

MORE FUN #52, 53, 60, 64, 66, & 70;
ADVENTURE #40-44, 47-49, 51-52, 77-78, 83;
DETECTIVE #27-32, 34-38, 40, 47, 53-55;
FLASH #4-11.

****TRADE OFFERS WILL BE GIVEN PRIORITY OVER CASH OFFERS****

SPECIAL OFFER to collectors who can loan me any of the above issues to microfilm: I will give you first crack at the items in my collection which are going up for sale. Let me know what issues you have for loan and what ADVENTURES and/or MORE FUNS you need, and we can work out a deal to our mutual benefit.

All bids should be submitted at the earliest possible moment, because the first offer that strikes my fancy will get the item.

Enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you want to receive the next list of my comics to go up for sale.

PLEASE: No re-bidding! Send your best bid the first time. Thanks.

Jerry G. Bails, 22529 Karam Court, Warren, Michigan 48091

INTRODUCING: A NEW CONCEPT IN COMICS...

This is FANTASY ILLUSTRATED, a brand-new amateur produced comic book that features some of the finest art and stories to be found outside the pro comics. It is created by comic book fans FOR comic book fans—if you want to see the unusual, the different, we think you will like FI.

Its format is flexible; running the gamut from science fiction/fantasy to superheroes and yes, even horror stories and satire. All of these story categories shall make their appearance in FI at one time or another, and some are to be found in issue number one.

To give you an idea of what to expect in the way of artwork, please take a look at the samples printed on the reverse side of this sheet. Those represented in the first issue are Richard Green, Buddy Saunders, D. Bruce Berry, Alan Weiss, and Landon Chesney, who drew the cover, shown at left. In addition to all the top-flight artwork, Fantasy Illustrated features stories by known authors; first issue has two yarns by pro writer, Otto Binder, whose work will also be presented regularly in future issues.

Fantasy Illustrated is edited and published by Bill Spicer, who will now list the specifications as follows:

a) Printed offset-litho throughout
b) 40 pages, 7" x 10", wrap-around binding
c) Black and white interior, FOUR COLOR COVER
d) All copies mailed flat in sealed envelopes
e) Published irregularly, although the editor stubbornly insists that "a quarterly schedule is not impossible".

Bill Spicer
418-H West Stocker Street
Glendale, California 91202

Please send me FANTASY ILLUSTRATED; I have enclosed either 50¢ in coin for issue #1 or $2.00 for a four-issue subscription.

NAME ______________________________

STREET ______________________________

CITY, STATE & ZIP CODE ______________________________

PLEASE ORDER EARLY - PRESSRUN IS LIMITED!

FANTASY ILLUSTRATED

LOCAL CHAPTERS IN THE ACADEMY

It is fairly clear that some functions of the Academy can only be achieved through active, local and regional groups of fans. I propose that we establish criteria for recognizing such groups as official chapters of the Academy. As I see it, local chapters will have to be the responsible, working units -- the hosts -- for any Academy-sponsored conventions. It is in the interests of the Academy to support local groups in their effort to organize. What suggestions do you have for ways that the Academy can help local groups? What procedures should we establish for recognizing these groups? Can you foresee any difficulties? If so, what recommendations do you make? Please give these matters some thought, for I would like to move on this matter within the year, if at all possible. Incidentally, if you have some good ideas, put them into editorials for one of the fanzines, so that others can profit from your thinking.

1963 ALLEY REPORT

As has been announced on several occasions, a Tally Party will be held on the weekend of March 21-22 for Great Lakes area fans to count the votes and determine the winners in this year's Alley Poll. Under the circumstances, I don't suppose it is realistic to assume that the results will be kept confidential until the Report has been published, but I don't guess it matters much. Because of his efforts in behalf of the Poll last year, I am asking Ed Lahmann if he would like to write up the Alley Report this year. (Aside to Ed: I presume I'll see you at the Tally; you can let me have your

(Continued in the next column.)

answer then.) I think it would be nice if the final Report were to appear in one of the several fine fanzines that are being published now. Are any of you fan publishers interested? If so, let me hear from you right away. In any event, I will guarantee publication of the Report by May 1, as promised, even if I have to hand-print every copy of the Report myself. This means, of course, that if any faned wants to carry the Report in his zine, he'll have to have it in the mail by April 20th, or I will! Fair enough?

MICROFILM LENDING LIBRARY

I have my microfilm equipment now, and I have had excellent results with black and white film. I have also experimented with color, and I'm waiting on the processing of my first color films right now. I have every reason to believe they will turn out perfectly.

If members of the Academy will help me in my filming by loaning me , at my expense, rare comics from their collections, I intend to return the favor by making copies of the microfilms available on loan to supporting members at a nominal fee. I will operate the Microfilm Library as a personal enterprise, but for the Academy. Although the Library will not diminish the interest of the genuine collector in obtaining original items for their on sake, I believe this project may have the ultimate effect of stabilizing or even reducing the currently inflated market prices of old comics; since many fans are not collectors, but merely readers with a normal amount of curiousity in the early comics. Let me hear from you if you are willing to help me.

THE COMIC READER #23

Jerry G. Bails
22529 Karam Ct.
Warren, Michigan

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Oakland 1, Calif.

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OFFICIAL ACADEMY SEAL

Dick Memorich has agreed to serve as chairman of a committee to create a seal for the Academy. Bill Spicer & Bill White are working with him. They will soon be submitting designs for a seal for our consideration.

ELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

The next matter that must be decided before long is the manner of election of future Executive Boards. Please express your opinion on the following points, so that I might make up a proposal expressing the consensus of the Board.

(1) How large should the Board be?
___Current size (78) ___50
___50 or 25% of the Supporting Membership (whichever is smaller)
___30 ___Other, specify____________
Number of General Members is now about 600.
Number of Supporting Members is still an unknown, but I don't expect it exceed 200 this year.
(2) How many Board Members should each Supporting Member be allowed to vote for? ___5; ___10; ___20; ___all.
(3) Which would you consider more desirable:
___The Board should be fairly large with a majority of its members being reelected each year?
___The Board should be small and rotated almost completely each year?
___Other, specify____________________________

SPECIAL REQUEST

Do me a favor and discuss each Academy matter you write to me about on a separate sheet of paper, so that I can file your comments on each subject in the appropriate folder. Thanks.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Bails, Secretary

JGB